



## Procambarus clarkii

### Red Swamp Crayfish

#### General

1. *P. clarkii* displays a dark red body with a wedge-shaped black stripe on the abdomen.
2. Adults can reach 2.2-4.7 inches in length.
3. The red swamp crayfish mate in late autumn.
4. Crayfish are most active at night, and often conceal themselves under rocks or logs during the day.
5. The most characteristic behavior of the red swamp crayfish is burrowing, which has caused most of the negative impacts in its introduced habitat.



#### Geography and Habitat

1. Native to northeastern Mexico but their range extends throughout the south-central United States.
2. Primarily found in swamps, sloughs, and ditches.
3. *P. clarkii* burrows itself for survival during periods of extreme cold or drought, as well as avoids streams and areas with strong currents.

#### Economic and Ecological Impacts

1. *P. clarkii* is carnivorous, eating insects, larvae, snails and tadpoles.
2. They are also known to eat the remains of dead animals and worms if traditional food sources are scarce.
3. The crayfish has burrowed sophisticated irrigation systems in the areas it has been introduced.
4. As a result of their burrowing behavior, the red swamp crayfish has damaged the levees, dams, and water control structures.
5. *P. clarkii* is also an intermediate host for many parasitic helminths of vertebrates, potentially creating new health problems in new areas where it has become established.

#### Invasion Pathways

1. Human facilitated due to aquaculture.

#### Non-native locations

1. Hawaii
2. Japan

#### Sources

1. Rogers, J. 2000. "*Procambarus clarkii*" (On-line), Animal Diversity Web. Accessed January 11, 2011 [http://animaldiversity.ummz.umich.edu/site/accounts/information/Procambarus\\_clarkii.html](http://animaldiversity.ummz.umich.edu/site/accounts/information/Procambarus_clarkii.html).